

THE RIO NEWS.

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY.

VOL. XX.

RIO DE JANEIRO, JUNE 13TH, 1893.

NUMBER 24

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICES:—
79, Rua Sete de Setembro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, JUNE 13th, 1893.

THE telegrams which appeared in the *Jornal do Commercio* on Saturday last in regard to the status of the Oeste de Minas loan in London, will undoubtedly be a painful surprise to the many who have not yet learned to accept all official reports with mistrust, but to not a few it is only a confirmation of what they already knew of the very questionable result of that operation. If we had believed the first reports on the success of the loan, which told us that it had been taken three times over and that it was quoted at 82, we should now be surely puzzled to know how it is that not one half of the bonds have yet been issued and that the quotation is now 72. And it would be most difficult to understand how a stock secured by a railway in operation, a concession for a costly extension and a guarantee from the national government, should be refused an official quotation on the London stock exchange. It has been well known to many, however, that the issue of this loan was not an unqualified success, and in view of the recent remittances from the Treasury to the Rothschilds to cover "the purchase of old issues," there is very good reason for the belief that not a little of the appearance of success which manifested for a moment, was due to the Brazilian government itself. If the subscriptions reported were *bona fide*, then we fail to understand how it is that not one half of the bonds of the loan have yet been issued and that the price has dropped to 72. It may be, of course, that purely clerical delays in the issue have occurred, but in that case why was the mistake made of asking for an official quotation? It is altogether a queer business, and is a fair illustration of what is almost certain to occur when a tyro in finance tries to play the rôle of a great financier. Brazil has yet to learn, apparently, that shoulder-steps and unlimited conceit are quite insufficient to make a safe and successful minister of finance. Training and experience are two very useful factors in the make-up of such a minister, and if to these is added a few of those personal qualities which men soon learn to trust implicitly and unhesitatingly then we shall have something which the country can depend upon. As it is, we have a discredited loan, upon which the Treasury is said to have derived an inexplicable profit through the medium of an arbitrary and absurd rate of exchange. The whole affair requires clearing up, and it is to be hoped that an explanation will at once be asked for in Congress.

It must be admitted that affairs in the state of Santa Catharina have reached a stage where the federal government must do one of two things—either withdraw its interference in local affairs, or prepare for another insurrection. A quarrel has been in progress there for a long time between state and federal officials. In the Blumenau colony this quarrel has already led to armed conflicts and the feeling has become so bitter that it will require very little encouragement to provoke a conflict similar to what is now raging in Rio Grande. We do not pretend to know who is right and who is wrong in this controversy, but we do know that the federal government, through its military representatives in that state, is upholding and encouraging those who are in opposition to the state government. Both sides are probably doing all they can to provoke a quarrel, and to misrepresent the conduct of the opposition, and for this reason we are treated to telegraphic accusations and denials almost every day in the week. And as long as the federal government encourages the idea that

the quarrel is to be settled here in Rio de Janeiro, these contradictory reports will continue to flow in. Yesterday, however, two telegrams were published here which, if true, merit prompt attention. One of these is to the effect that the acting military commander of that district, Col. Serra Martins (the officer who tried to depose the governor of Pernambuco a short time ago by ordering him under arrest), had instructed the governor of the state to prohibit popular meetings, or suffer the consequences; the other was that the frontier commander, Major Firmino, had telegraphed to a newspaper libelling and threatening the governor. As these officials are beyond the reach of any ordinary legal process, the governor of the state has no recourse against them except that of armed force. To vindicate his authority and maintain his dignity as the chief executive of the state, he can not permit such acts as these to pass unnoticed. If he has any spirit at all, he will compel these meddlesome officers to mind their own business or leave the state, and the federal government will be obliged to sustain him, or interfere again for the overthrow of an independent state government. It is much the same alternative that was presented in Rio Grande and Pernambuco, and the results will undoubtedly be the same. In one state the interference was sustained and a civil war resulted; in the other it was withdrawn and the quarrel has subsided. Will the President order his officers in Santa Catharina to mind their own business, or will he have that state going over to the side of the Rio Grande federalists?

BAGGAGE DISINFECTING.

The United States Secretary of the Treasury issued a circular May 31st directing, in accordance with the recent quarantine law, that until further notice all baggage of passengers destined for the United States shall be labelled. If the baggage has been inspected and passed, the label shall be a *red label*, bearing the name of the port, the steamship on which the baggage is to be carried, the word "inspected" in large type, the date of inspection, and the stamp of the consular or medical officer of the United States serving in the office of the consul. If baggage that has been "disinfected" shall be pasted with a *yellow label*, upon which shall be printed the name of the port, the steamship on which the baggage is to be carried, the word "disinfected" in large type, the date of disinfection, and the seal or stamp of the consul or of the medical officer of the United States serving in the office of the consul. It is understood, and it will be so printed on the back, that the label is not valid unless bearing the consular or medical officer's stamp or seal. It is further ordered that each immigrant or passenger shall be furnished with an inspection card, the part of departure, name of immigrant or passenger, and last residence, and the seal or stamp of the United States consulate, or the detailed medical officer. This card is to be retained by the immigrant until he reaches his point of destination in the United States, and is for the purpose of giving information to the quarantine officers of the several States through whose boundaries the immigrant must pass, and will greatly facilitate his transportation.

AN EVIDENT INJUSTICE.

To the Editor.

SIR,—I see by an item in your last issue that the directors of the British Bank of South America have resolved to apply an unexpended balance of £2,144 belonging to the "loans" voted to employees of the English Bank of Rio de Janeiro in the creation of a "pension fund" for the British Bank's staff. I am very much inclined to believe that this can not legally be done. The £20,000 voted belong to the staff of the English Bank in Brazil at the date of its dissolution, and to no one else. The directors of the British Bank have no right in this money, nor power to divert it from the purpose indicated. Neither has the present, nor any future staff of the bank any claim upon it. After having made a very partial and inequitable distribution of the money, and in such a manner that over one-third of it still remains in their hands, the directors appear to be peculiarly anxious to cover up the transaction by denying this balance to some beneficent purpose. But who has authorized them to do this? Have they known that I wish to have my share of that balance covered into a pension fund, to meet risks and charges which the bank should meet from its own profits? We who have been compelled to earn these profits here in Santos and Rio de Janeiro, with the risks of fever always before us and with, at times, the obligation of nursing our dying comrades, to whom our directors and shareholders never even thought of sending nurses until you were good enough to insist upon it within the last year or two—we, who have done the work and incurred the risks, should surely be permitted to have or dispose of the trifling sum given us at a general meeting of the shareholders. In view of the enormous profit realized on the sale and repurchase of the Rio consuls, the directors and shareholders of the bank have very little reason, I think, for this taking over one third of this bonus away from its Brazilian staff in order to increase a pen-sun-fund for future employees. I for one would like to see what an English bank has to say in such a proposition. And I would like to hear what the old E. B. men have to say in it.

Yours, etc.

N. BELLS.

Along the Coast, June 9th, 1893.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

JUNE 5.—*Senate*.—Senator Quintino Bocayra spoke against the bill for appointing a national interior in Rio Grande do Sul and Senator Theodoro Souta in its favor. *Chamber of Deputies*.—Deputy Antonio Rios moved to ask for a copy of the bill for extending the extension of railway from Bahia to Villa Nova do Lourenço. The bill, he said, is only 20 leagues long and has cost the government 22,000,000\$. The administration, he added, is the most imaginable. Deputy Souta spoke in favor of the impeachment of the President of the republic. He hopes, he said, that Congress will not consent to the impeachment; but the handful of congressmen who vote for it will have shown that they had the civic courage to sacrifice their interests for the sake of the constitution and the laws.

JUNE 6.—*Senate*.—Senators Amaro Cavalcanti and Coelho Campos spoke on the bill for appointing a national interior in Rio Grande do Sul. The latter said that he desired to see peace re-established in that state, even if it is the price of Varsar. Senator Elyzen Martins introduced a bill on Chinese and Japanese immigration. *Chamber of Deputies*.—Messages were received from the President of the republic asking for three deficiency appropriations to the total of 350,000\$. Deputy Leopoldo Filgueiras spoke against the impeachment of the President of the republic and Deputy Rios spoke in support of the impeachment. The appropriation for the immigration service, the appropriation was defended by Deputy Leopoldo de Bulhões.

JUNE 7.—*Senate*.—Senator Theodoro Souta defended the bill for appointing an interior in Rio Grande do Sul, which was mainly opposed by Senator Aristides Lobo, who said that the republic is in a state of anarchy and has been excessive in its treatment of monarchists. He considered the safety of the republic, he said, far more important than any theories or principles. Senator Manoel Vitorino also spoke against the bill, which was rejected, there being only one vote in its favor. *Chamber of Deputies*.—The Chamber re-elected its officers, the vote for the presidency being as follows: João Lopes, 87; Gonçalves Chaves, 50; scattering, 5. Senator Brazão Machado spoke in favor of the impeachment of the President of the republic. That the President has violated the constitution and the laws is, he said, a fact about which there is not the slightest doubt. He denied that the impeachment of the President would endanger the republic, which, he declared, depended not on the name of Marshal Deodoro Pereira, but on the will of the people. Deputy Lamounier Góes introduced a bill regulating the manner of counting the vote of officers of the army. The committee on petitions reported in favor of annulling the congressional election held in this city on March 15.

JUNE 8.—*Senate*.—The following telegram was received from Senator Pinheiro Machado and Dr. Euclides Azevedo, dated June 6: "Kerensky called yesterday. Gen. Kuropatkin originated and surrendered to political chief Urquiza. Long live the republic! We salute you." Senator Aristides Lobo spoke against the bill for appointing 12,000,000\$ in gold for the navy. Senators Amaro Cavalcanti and Elyzen Martins offered motions for postponement. In view of explanations of Senator Quintino Bocayra, Senator Aristides Lobo withdrew his objection to the bill. The motion of Senator Elyzen Martins was withdrawn and that of Senator Amaro Cavalcanti rejected. *Chamber of Deputies*.—The report of the special committee against the proposal for the impeachment of the President was adopted by a vote of 93 to 52.

JUNE 9.—*Senate*.—The Senate ruled in 3rd discussion the substitute bill for customs-houses at Santos and Juiz de Fora. *Chamber of Deputies*.—Deputy Leuzenne de Carvalho, in proposing the appointment of Dr. Victoriano Muniz to the position to Montevideo, said that as a friend to Dr. Julio de Castilhos he could not believe that the latter desired this appointment. The appointment was also opposed by Deputies José Azevedo, Marcondes Moura and Martinho Rodrigues, and was rejected by Deputies Benito Pereira, Angelo Pinheiro and Leuzenne de Carvalho. The Chamber annulled the congressional election held in this city on March 15th.

JUNE 10.—Neither chamber had a quorum.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—Argentina has resolved to take part in the Antwerp exposition. She will probably exhibit her unparalleled debts.

—A telegram from Montevideo on the 9th says that the health authorities are preparing to recommend the suspension of the quarantine against Rio de Janeiro.

—The ministry of finance has advertised for tenders for the purchase of \$12,512 in Brazilian silver. This government has realized itself as well as the market, and will lose some \$5000 which it can ill spare. *Montevideo Times*.

—Strange rumors are about about a salubrious loan being granted to a disreputable company which has been played itself out in this and in other lands. For certain unmentionable reasons, a certain party in high quarters was anxious to see re-born. *Montevideo Times*.

—The crimes and other offences that took place in Rosario, Santa Fé, during 1892 reach the formidable total of 7,255, the estimated population of that city being 59,000. The list is the following: Murder 52, kidnapping 206, robbery 318, other crimes 534, minor civil cases 6,065, total 7,255.

—On the night of May 26th a band of eight river thieves captured the steamer *Argentina*, lying at anchor in the bay opposite the "House of the South," Buenos Aires. Three of them carried in the boat which took them to the steamer and the rest went on board, but after a fight with the two guards they were beaten off.

—The committee charged with investigating the death of three sailors smothered in the on-board cage of the Argentine cruiser *Libatador* by being imprisoned in an tight room, has discharged the officers responsible for the punishment.

—Another English paper, called *The Monday Chronicle*, has made its appearance in Buenos Aires. It is said to fill a long-felt want.

—The wheat crop of the Argentine province of Santa Fé is calculated at 534,460 tons this year, against 495,000 tons in 1892. The value of all the crops in the 314 communes in that province this year is estimated at \$82,000,000. There are now 85 flour mills at work in the province.

—The municipal authorities of Buenos Aires has contracted for the lighting of South Barracas by electricity, using 32 arc lamps for that purpose. The Argentine government has also decided to light the south bank of the Riachuelo by electricity, which it is hoped will make that neighborhood safer than it now is.

—A short time ago a member of the Dutch community of Buenos Aires proposed in the English Literary Society that its doors should be closed against anti-ans. The proposition is promptly voted down, and with some very uncomplimentary remarks on the style of man who could make such a proposition. If the party indicated by one of our contemporaries were the south he wished, then his friends will have the satisfaction of hearing more from him, for he has started a paper of his own.

—Our native contemporaries all complain very severely about the new postal tariff for newspapers, which, unless a misprint has occurred in the publication of the Act (which is quite possible) is one cent for each paper instead of the half cent originally spoken of. This represents a tax of 40 to 50 per cent on the subscriptions, and will be fatal to many small periodicals of limited circulation, already in peril. Certainly the time could not have been worse chosen for the introduction of such a charge. *Montevideo Times*, June 1.

—Near La Paz, Argentina, a few days ago, a horseman riding along a railway track, might have been struck by a locomotive, his horse killed, and he himself slain. The train stopped on the side of the track. The man sprang out and then the train was halted. He was running, the saddle from the dead animal and cursing because one of his stirrups had been lost. He himself at last sustained only a few slight bruises. The stirrups then arrested by trespassing, the presumption being, apparently, that the punishment already sustained was not sufficient.

—On Tuesday morning at half-past four, a fire broke out on board the steamer *Alcorral*, 25 tons in one of the mackerel store rooms, on the starboard side. Upon the fire being given, the engine was turned out and took up, then, respectively, the *Santa Barbara* continuing to burn in tons of powder, and which was close to the fire, was promptly doused. The fire was extinguished by several buckets, and the residue of salt was from the *25 d. Mares*. This is the fifth fire that has occurred on board this vessel within the period of a year. *Revista*, Buenos Aires, May 27.

—General Cipriela wrote an insolent letter to the minister of war, and not content with that, insisted on publishing it. He was therefore placed under arrest and imprisoned in the Parque barracks. In any European country Gen. Cipriela would be dismissed the service and probably court-martialed for such a serious breach of discipline. In order of the government Gen. Cipriela was set at liberty on Wednesday, *Revista*, Buenos Aires, May 27. We also note that during his imprisonment his room was constantly filled with military officers calling to express sympathy, or to discuss future plans. Military discipline is evidently at a discount in Argentina.

—According to a recent official report the gold mining operations in the department of Riviera, Uruguay, excluding of course the mining mines, have given the following results during the last five years:—

Quartz crushed, metric tons	Yield in gold, grammes	Value, dollars
1888 .. 2,019,890	25,734	\$8,807
1889 .. 17,841,221	139,201	\$5,250
1890 .. 32,244,540	267,005	\$9,048
1891 .. 40,320,980	212,881	90,743
1892 .. 16,070,215	121,579	\$5,615

—It is very strange that in such a country as Argentina, where horses abound, the cavalry regiments should not have sufficient horses to be able to appear at a review without having to borrow some from the police force. But such is the case. For the review on Thursday the minister of war had to borrow two hundred horses from the police department so as to be able to mount the military men and cavalry who were present. The men forming the President's escort were also mounted on borrowed steeds. The minister also had to borrow a lot of white gloves from the same department. These can be proofs of disorganization in the war department. *Revista*, May 27.

—It will surprise many people to learn that when a criminal has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment, he is informed by the judge of the number of years which he has got to serve. Only at short time a case was brought before our notice of a man who had been sentenced to a term of imprisonment, but only three months before his time was up. He was informed that at the end of a few weeks he would be placed at liberty; and that he had been sentenced by the criminal judge for five years, which had now nearly expired. Only at short time a case was brought before our notice of the prisoners who were sentenced in long terms, etc., always afraid to misbehave themselves, as they were dying in hopes that their sentence had been a short one, and by misbehaving they would lengthen it out. There is if they knew that they had to suffer for a term of years, it would not be so rare. It was also said that the only to commit suicide on the part of criminals of long terms, was greatly diminished by their ignorance, as they are allowed to hope, day by day, that they will be released, for the prison authorities told that their term was nearly expired. It is surprising that large numbers of men never adopted this plan for making their term, before in a year or so, as it seems to be more merited to being about this result through love, even if false, than for each crumb as is practiced in many prisons. *Revista*, Argentina.

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